

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 EA-12 NEA-10
AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10
NSAE-00 ICA-20 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02
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PARIS FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: ECOSOC

SUBJECT: SUMMER 1978 ECOSOC, GENERAL DEBATE

1. CUBAN AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH WAS A TYPICALLY HARD-HITTING
THREAT DIRECTED TOWARDS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. HE SAID
THAT ALL PRINCIPLE ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPED
AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING DEBT NEGOTIATIONS,
COMMON FUND, MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, AND
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, HAD EITHER FAILED OR WERE MOVING
IN DIRECTIONS CONTRARY TO INTERESTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
IF THIS CONTINUED, DEVELOPING WORLD WILL HAVE TO TAKE
INCREASINGLY ENERGETIC MEASURES. THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES'
NEGATIVE AND INFLEXIBLE POSITIONS WERE COMPLETELY TO
BLAME. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY DISAPPOINTING IN THE
COW WHERE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD ACTED MODERATELY. UN
SHOULD FOCUS ON THE DESIRE OF WESTERN
INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO PROLONG INTERNATIONAL
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ECONOMIC INEQUITY WHICH IS INHERENT IN CAPITALIST
STRUCTURE. INCLUDED HERE SHOULD BE CONCERN NOT ONLY
WITH SO-CALLED CORRUPT PRACTICES BUT RATHER WITH GENERAL
PRACTICES OF TNCs AND THEIR NEGATIVE EFFECTS. IN SUM,
UNDERDEVELOPMENT EXISTED AS A RESULT OF COLONIALISM
AND IMPERIALISM. THIS AMOUNTS TO REPRESSION AND THEREFORE
IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THOSE COLONIALISTS AND

IMPERIALISTS TO RECTIFY THE PROBLEMS OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM.

2. NORWEGIAN OBSERVER'S SPEECH WAS COMPLETELY DEVOTED TO AN EVALUATION OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW). PROGRESS IN THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE HAS BEEN SLOW AND THIS INCLUDES THE COW. NONETHELESS, IT REPRESENTS A STRENGTHENING OF UN LEADERSHIP ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC MATTERS. THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COW WAS NOT A FAILURE. RATHER, IT PROVIDED A POSSIBILITY FOR THE UN TO BE THE LEADING FORUM FOR THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. QUALITY OF COW'S LEADERSHIP WILL DEPEND ON LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION AND THE POLITICAL (RATHER THAN TECHNICAL OR SPECIFIC) NATURE OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE. THESE TWO REQUIREMENTS WERE NOT ACHIEVED BY THE FIRST MEETING. HOWEVER COW RESULTS IN GENERAL WERE UNUSUALLY POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE. COW MUST BE MORE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED IN A WAY WHICH REFLECTS THE POSSIBLE LEADERSHIP ROLE WHICH IT COULD PLAY IN THE WHOLE LEADERSHIP ROLE OF UN IN GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELD.

3. REPS FROM MALAYSIA AND FROM INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION ALSO SPOKE.

4. NOTE: SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES IN PARA 2, LAST SENTENCE SHOULD READ: "COW MUST BE MORE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED IN A UNCLASSIFIED

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WAY WHICH REFLECTS THE POSSIBLE LEADERSHIP ROLE OF UN IN GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELD. VANDEN HEUVAL

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